

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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22 October 1999

(99-4577)

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## REPORT (1999) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (the Agreement) which entered into force on 1 January 1995, establishes disciplines on users of import licensing systems with the principal objective of ensuring that the procedures applied for granting import licences do not in themselves restrict trade. It aims to simplify, clarify and minimize the administrative requirements necessary to obtain import licences.

The Committee on Import Licensing (the Committee) was established to afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives.

All Members of the WTO are *ipso facto* members of the Committee. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have observer status in the Committee. In addition, representatives of the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank are invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

The Committee held two meetings on 29 April and 21 October 1999 (G/LIC/M/9 and 10). The Committee at its meeting in April 1999 re-elected Mrs. Marie Gosset (Côte d'Ivoire) as Chairperson and elected Mr. Lars Andersen (Norway) as Vice-Chairperson for 1999. Pursuant to the Committee's Rules of Procedure (G/L/147), they took office at the end of that meeting.

Pursuant to Articles 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b) of the Agreement, all Members are required to notify their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 61 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have notified their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from the following nine Members: European Communities, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Latvia, Malawi, Romania, Tunisia and Turkey. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/-.

Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures<sup>1</sup> by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 59 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have made notifications under this provision. This includes replies to the Questionnaire from 11 Members in 1995, 22 Members in 1996, 25 Members in 1997, 25 Members in 1998 and 19 Members in 1999. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from Canada; Chile; European Communities; Ghana; Hong Kong, China; India; Latvia; Malawi; Malta; Morocco; Namibia; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Romania; South Africa; Tunisia; Turkey and Uruguay. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

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<sup>1</sup> Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

The Committee also received pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from Argentina, India, Malaysia and Romania. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/-.

8. At its meeting on 29 April 1999, the Committee heard concerns expressed by several Members regarding the compatibility with the Agreement of certain modifications introduced by Brazil in August 1998 to its non-automatic import licensing system which had yet to be notified to the Committee (G/LIC/M/9). At its meeting on 21 October 1999, the Committee was informed by the European Communities that it had requested consultations with Brazil under, *inter alia*, the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures concerning these measures. Switzerland indicated its intention to join these consultations (G/LIC/M/10).

9. At its meeting on 29 April 1999, the Committee also took note of the response of the Chairperson to the Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods summarizing the discussion held in the Committee, at informal and formal level, on the subject of trade facilitation (G/LIC/M/9 and G/C/W/149, paragraph 7).

10. The Committee has provided a regular forum for the discussion of specific notifications submitted by Members and of concerns regarding notifications. It should be noted that the mandatory notification requirements under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b) and 7.3 are complied with by only about 55 per cent of the WTO Members. The Annex reflects the current status of notifications. In light of this situation, the Chairperson, recognizing the importance of notifications for the effective implementation and functioning of the Agreement, urged Members to fulfil their notification obligations.

ANNEX

Notifications

Members	Footnote 5 to Article 2.2 Two-year delayed application (date of WTO Membership)	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Angola		Not notified	Not notified	
Antigua & Barbuda		Not notified	Not notified	
Argentina		G/LIC/N/1/ARG/1-2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/1 + Corr.1 & ARG/2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/1-4 + ARG/2/Rev.1, ARG/5 (4.10.99)
Australia		G/LIC/N/1/AUS/1 & Add.1 (28.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/1 & Rev.1 (28.4.97)	
Bahrain		G/LIC/N/1/BHR/1 (27.5.97)	Not notified	
Bangladesh	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Barbados		G/LIC/N/1/BRB/1 (4.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/BRB/1 (15.9.95)	
Belize		Not notified	Not notified	
Benin		G/LIC/N/1/BEN/1 (18.12.96)	Not notified	
Bolivia	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (13.9.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BOL/1 (29.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BOL/1-2 + Corr.1 (24.8.98)	
Botswana		Not notified	Not notified	
Brazil	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/BRA/1 (24.4.98)
Brunei Darussalam		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/BRN/1 (4.3.97)	
Bulgaria		G/LIC/N/1/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	
Burkina Faso	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (3.6.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	
Burundi		Not notified	Not notified	
Cameroon	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (13.12.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Canada		G/LIC/N/1/CAN/1 (29.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/1-3 (2.9.99)	
Central African Rep.		Not notified	Not notified	
Chad		G/LIC/N/1/TCO/1 (22.7.98)	Not notified	
Chile		G/LIC/N/1/CHL/1 (16.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CHL/1 & Add.1-2 (3.2.99)	
Colombia	G/LIC/1 (30.4.95)	G/LIC/N/1/COL/1 (12.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/COL/1 & Add.1 (2.11.96)	
Congo		Not notified	Not notified	
Costa Rica	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/CRI/1 (21.11.95)	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/1-2 (7.5.98)	
Côte d'Ivoire	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Cuba		G/LIC/N/1/CUB/1 (11.1.96)	Not notified	
Cyprus		G/LIC/N/1/CYP/1 (30.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CYP/1+ Rev.1 & CYP/2 (28.8.98)	
Czech Republic		G/LIC/N/1/CZE/1 (28.10.98)	Not notified	
Dem Rep. of Congo		Not notified	Not notified	
Djibouti		Not notified	Not notified	
Dominica		Not notified	Not notified	
Dominican Rep.	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (9.3.95)	Not notified	Not notified	

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Ecuador		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ECU/1 (1.8.95)	
Egypt		Not notified	Not notified	
El Salvador	G/LIC/1 (7.5.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
European Communities		G/LIC/N/1/EEC/1/Rev.2 & Add.1-2 & EEC/2 + Add.1 (14.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/EEC/1 + Add.1 & EEC/2 + Add.1-27 (28.9.99)	G/LIC/N/2/EEC/1-2 (4.7.97)
Fiji		G/LIC/N/1/FJI/1 (30.7.97)	G/LIC/N/3/FJI/1 (1.4.97)	
Gabon	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Gambia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/1 (31.10.97)	
Ghana		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GHA/1 (28.4.99)	
Grenada		Not notified	Not notified	
Guatemala	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (21.7.95)	G/LIC/N/1/GTM/1 (19.10.99)	Not notified	
Guinea		Not notified	Not notified	
Guinea Bissau		Not notified	Not notified	
Guyana		Not notified	Not notified	
Haiti		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/HTI/1 (27.2.98)	
Honduras	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/HND/1 (31.10.96)	Not notified	
Hong Kong, China		G/LIC/N/1/HKG/1-4 (20.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/1 + Rev.1-2, HKG/2-3+Corr.1 (30.9.99)	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/1-2 (27.1.98)
Hungary		G/LIC/N/1/HUN/1-2 (19.1.98)	G/LIC/N/3/HUN/1-2 (19.1.98)	G/LIC/N/2/HUN/1 (19.1.98)
Iceland		G/LIC/N/1/ISL/1 (8.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/ISL/1 (1.9.98)	
India		G/LIC/N/1/IND/1/Rev.1 + IND/2 (6.9.99)	G/LIC/N/3/IND/1-3 (14.10.99)	G/LIC/N/2/IND/1-2 (6.9.99)
Indonesia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	
Israel		Not notified	Not notified	
Jamaica		G/LIC/N/1/JAM/1 (1.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/JAM/1 (29.5.98)	
Japan		G/LIC/N/1/JPN/1 & JPN/2/Rev.1 (7.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/1 + Corr.1 (2.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/JPN/1-2 (18.8.98)
Kenya	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1 (10.11.97)	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1 (10.11.97)	
Korea		G/LIC/N/1/KOR/1-3 (3.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/1-2 (6.4.98)	
Kuwait		Not notified	Not notified	
Kyrgyz Republic		Not notified	Not notified	
Latvia		G/LIC/N/1/LVA/1 (18.5.99)	G/LIC/N/3/LVA/1 (18.5.99)	
Lesotho		Not notified	Not notified	
Liechtenstein		G/LIC/N/1/LIE/1 (18.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/LIE/1 + Add.1 (9.11.98)	G/LIC/N/2/LIE/1 (18.4.97)
Macau		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MAC/1 (30.11.98)	
Madagascar		G/LIC/N/1/MDG/1 (28.1.98)	Not notified	
Malawi		G/LIC/N/1/MWI/1 (10.5.99)	G/LIC/N/3/MWI/1 (10.5.99)	

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Malaysia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MYS/1 (4.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/MYS/1-2 (21.7.99)
Maldives		Not notified	Not notified	
Mali		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/1 (9.5.97)	
Malta		G/LIC/N/1/MLT/1 (29.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MLT/1-2 + MLT/2/Corr.1 (30.6.99)	
Mauritania		Not notified	Not notified	
Mauritius		G/LIC/N/1/MUS/1 & Add.1-3 (4.5.98)	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/1 (2.11.95)	
Mexico		Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/MEX/1 (16.10.98)
Mongolia		Not notified	Not notified	
Morocco		G/LIC/N/1/MAR/1 (3.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MAR/1-2 + MAR/2/Add.1 (18.2.99)	
Mozambique		Not notified	Not notified	
Myanmar	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Namibia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/NAM/1-2 (22.6.99)	
New Zealand		G/LIC/N/1/NZL/1 (2.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/1 + Add.1 (24.3.98)	
Nicaragua		G/LIC/N/1/NIC/1 (18.7.96)	Not notified	
Niger		G/LIC/N/1/NER/1 (10.12.97)	Not notified	
Nigeria		G/LIC/N/1/NGA/1 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/3/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/2/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)
Norway		G/LIC/N/1/NOR/1-2 (3.11.97)	G/LIC/N/3/NOR/1 + Corr.1 & NOR/2 + Add.1 (2.11.98)	
Pakistan		G/LIC/N/1/PAK/1 (6.5.96)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PAK/1 (6.5.96)
Panama		G/LIC/N/1/PAN/1-2 (19.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/1 (22.1.99)	G/LIC/N/2/PAN/1 (21.7.98)
Papua New Guinea		Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PNG/1 (6.2.98)
Paraguay		Not notified	Not notified	
Peru		G/LIC/N/1/PER/1 (13.2.96)	G/LIC/N/3/PER/1-2 + Add. 1 (4.10.99)	
Philippines		G/LIC/N/1/PHL/1 (6.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/1-3 (11.10.99)	
Poland		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/POL/1 (7.10.97)	
Qatar		G/LIC/N/1/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	G/LIC/N/3/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	
Romania		G/LIC/N/1/ROM/1-2 (1.3.99)	G/LIC/N/3/ROM/1-2 (6.7.99)	G/LIC/N/2/ROM/1-2 (6.7.99)
Rwanda		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Kitts & Nevis		G/LIC/N/1/KNA/1 (17.7.98)	Not notified	
St. Lucia		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Vincent & Grenadines		Not notified	Not notified	
Senegal		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/SEN/1 (20.1.97)	
Sierra Leone		Not notified	Not notified	

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Singapore		G/LIC/N/1/SGP/1-2 (2.11.98)	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/1-2 (17.11.97)	G/LIC/N/2/SGP/1 (2.11.98)
Slovak Republic		Not notified	Not notified	
Slovenia		G/LIC/N/1/SVN/1 (27.11.96)	G/LIC/N/3/SVN/1 (6.6.97)	
Solomon Islands		Not notified	Not notified	
South Africa		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ZAF/1-2 (23.9.99)	G/LIC/N/2/ZAF/1 (9.7.97)
Sri Lanka	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Suriname		Not notified	Not notified	
Swaziland		G/LIC/N/1/SWZ/1 (19.8.96)	Not notified	
Switzerland		G/LIC/N/1/CHE/1 (14.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/1-2 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/2/CHE/1 (14.4.97)
Tanzania		Not notified	Not notified	
Thailand	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Togo		Not notified	Not notified	
Trinidad & Tobago		G/LIC/N/1/TTO/1 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/TTO/1-2 (28.10.98)	
Tunisia	G/LIC/1 (29.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUN/1 + Add.1 (21.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/TUN/1-2 (21.1.99)	
Turkey	G/LIC/1 (26.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUR/1, TUR/2/Rev.1 & TUR/3 (29.6.99)	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/1-2 + TUR/2/Corr.1 & TUR/3 (29.6.99)	
Uganda		G/LIC/N/1/UGA/1 (16.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/UGA/1 (17.6.97)	
United Arab Emirates	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (10.4.96)	G/LIC/N/1/ARE/1 (19.3.97)	Not notified	
United States		G/LIC/N/1/USA/1 & Rev.1 (1.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/USA/1-2 (1.10.98)	
Uruguay	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/URY/1 (4.9.96)	G/LIC/N/3/URY/1 + Add.1 (27.1.99)	
Venezuela	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Zambia		Not notified	Not notified	
Zimbabwe		G/LIC/N/1/ZWE/1-2 (21.9.98)	G/LIC/N/3/ZWE/1 (21.9.98)	
TOTAL NOTIFIED	24	61	59	18